

Chief, St/I

13 October 1955

THRU : Chief, D/S  
Chief, S/COM

Comments on [REDACTED] Reporting (ORR 9376) 25X1A2g

REFERENCE: Staff Notice No. 15, dated 5 October 1955

The following comments are submitted, as requested in the Referenced Notice.

I. a. Are titles sometimes vague or misleading?

No, but many of the larger reports should be broken down into smaller units by subject.

b. Are your requirement and guide control numbers cited when applicable?

As far as we know, yes.

c. Are source descriptions unsatisfactory or inadequate?

No. Reports are very good.

d. Is material often overclassified?

Yes, indeed. In view of the new DD/I directive to markedly reduce, if not eliminate the distribution—limitation classification on finished intelligence, we strongly urge that the use "NOFORN," "Internal Use Only," etc., to be reduced or eliminated.

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e. Do you understand and make use of the [REDACTED] system of source and content grading? Is this superfluous?

Yes, this is an ORR requirement.

f. Are unrelated subjects combined in the same report?

Yes, and all too often (See "a" above).

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- g. Is the intelligence significance of the data clearly presented?

In general yes, but sometimes there are obscurities on technical matter. Also there are sometimes ambiguities in the use of terms, mainly because the definitions of terms are too broad and generalized.

- h. Is the information sometimes badly organized?

A good job is being done in our opinion.

- i. How useful do you find most "Washington Comments"? Are they superfluous? Should they be organized into the text?

We find these comments extremely useful. They should not be organized into the text. We will be glad to have more frequent and longer comments if possible.

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- II. a. Are [REDACTED] reports generally too fragmentary?

No, but those that are, we assume is because that is all the information available.

- b. Would you prefer to see more emphasis on analytical reporting?

We find value in an analytical report, however, if there is room for greater emphasis, we would prefer to see it applied to the collection of more and better information.

- c. Is the information often too old to be useful?

Even though some information is old, it is seldom too old to be useful.

- d. Are other collection media capable of providing you, in sufficient time, with the data you usually receive in [REDACTED] reports? 25X1A2g

Generally, no.

- e. Is the quality uneven?

As to presentation, no.

- f. Does the writing lack clarity? Is it simple?

Almost always clear and simple.

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III. Are you prepared on occasion to accept untranslated material? (Translation often entails very long and unavoidable delay.) In which languages?

Yes, provided that a translated, annotated table of contents is available in Russian, German, French, Mongolian and Bulgarian.

IV. In general, how do you feel the quality of [REDACTED] reporting compares with that of other report series you receive? 25X1A2g

The quality of [REDACTED] reports are as good as, or better than other comparable reports we have excess to. A steady improvement has been noted over the past four years. 25X1A2g

V. Beyond the above, how have the methods of CS reporting failed to meet your needs and what suggestions would you have for their improvement?

1) Application of more technical competence to the collection, processing and writing of technical reports.

2) Reduction of time spread in collection and distribution in Washington.

3) More statistical data where this may be possible, and details on facilities.

4) Collectors and interrogators should be fully equipped with substantive collection, guides, and manuals, particularly when the collector or interrogator is not an expert in the subjects on which the source is competent.

5) We are simply not getting enough information, in terms of both quality and quantity, to do a thorough going intelligence job.

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[REDACTED]